

Where I'm From Assignment

Honors Foundations- Miss Detrick

YOUR MISSION: Each one of us has a past that makes us who we are. In becoming an Honors English student in my classroom, our paths have now crossed. Because of this, I want, as your teacher, to know who YOU are. Your first assignment is to write a poem, using the Lyons poem as a template, describing who you are and where you are from.

POINTS: Because I REALLY want to know you, I am making this first assignment worth 20 points! Quite a lot for one poem!

DUE DATE: The due date is tomorrow, August 26th.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Title your poem
- Type it out or write it neatly. Add pictures or clip art to enhance the presentation.
- Poem should be 25 lines minimum.
- Try to use descriptive words and evoke imagery in the readers' minds.

Where I'm From
by George Ella Lyons

I am from clothespins,
from Clorox and carbon-tetrachloride.
I am from the dirt under the black porch.
(Black, glistening
it tasted like beets.)
I am from the forsythia bush,
the Dutch elm
whose long gone limbs I remember
as if they were my own.

I'm from fudge and eyeglasses,
from Imogene and Alafair.
I'm from the know-it-alls
and the pass-it-ons,
from perk up and pipe down.
I'm from He restoreth my soul
with a cottonball lamb
and ten verses I can say myself.

I'm from Artemus and Billie's Branch,
fried corn and strong coffee.
From the finger my grandfather lost
to the auger
the eye my father shut to keep his sight.
Under my bed was a dress box
spilling old pictures,
a sift of lost faces
to drift beneath my dreams.
I am from those moments-
snapped before I budded-
leaf-fall from the family tree.

"Where I'm From" appears in George Ella Lyon's Where I'm From, Where Poems Come From, a poetry workshop-book for teachers and students, illustrated with photographs by Robert Hoskins and published by Absey & Co, Spring, Texas, 1999.